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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of

MCLAUGHLIN, R. et al.

Atty. Ref.: 117-521; Confirmation No.

Appl. No. To be assigned

Group:

US National Phase of PCT/GB03/00891

Filed: September 3, 2004

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September 3, 2004

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

In order to place the above-identified application in better condition for examination, please amend the application as follows: